

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently Amended) A portable communication apparatus comprising:
a microphone;
a processing device having an input operatively coupled to the microphone;
wherein the processing device is adapted to generate a digital output signal from a first electric signal received from the microphone;
a reading device adapted to generate a second electric signal from an optical or magnetic input signal; and
wherein the processing device is operatively coupled to the reading device such that the second electric signal from the reading device may be received at the input of the processing device.
 2. (Previously Presented) The portable communication apparatus as in claim 1, further comprising a switching device having a first input coupled to the microphone, a second input coupled to the reading device, an output coupled to the processing device, and a control input for selecting whether the first or the second electric signal is to be forwarded to the processing device.
 3. (Previously Presented) The portable communication apparatus as in claim 1 or 2, wherein the reading device comprises an optical emitter and an optical receiver for reading information stored in a barcode.
 4. (Previously Presented) The portable communication apparatus as in claim 1 or 2, wherein the reading device comprises a magnetic sensor for reading information stored in a magnetic strip on a card.
 5. (Previously Presented) The portable communication apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the processing device comprises an amplifier, an A/D converter, and a digital signal processor.
 6. (Previously Presented) The portable communication apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the apparatus is a radio telephone.
 7. (Previously Presented) The portable communication apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the reading device is integrated inside an apparatus housing of the portable communication apparatus.

8. (Previously Presented) The portable communication apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the reading device is located outside an apparatus housing of the portable communication apparatus and is connected through an accessory connector provided in the apparatus housing.

9. (Previously Presented) The portable communication apparatus as in claim 4, wherein the magnetic sensor comprises a coil.

10. (Previously Presented) The portable communication apparatus as in claim 6, wherein the radiotelephone comprises a mobile telephone.

11. (New) A portable communication apparatus comprising:
a microphone;
a processing device having an input operatively coupled to the microphone for receiving a first electrical signal from the microphone;
a reading device adapted to generate a second electric signal from an optical or magnetic input signal; and
wherein the processing device is operatively coupled to the reading device such that the second electric signal from the reading device may be received at the input of the processing device.

12. (New) A portable communication apparatus comprising:
a microphone;
a processing device having an input operatively coupled to the microphone for receiving a first electrical signal from the microphone;
a reading device adapted to generate a second electric signal from an optical or magnetic input signal; and
a switching device having a first input coupled to the microphone, a second input coupled to the reading device, an output coupled to the processing device, and a control input for selecting whether the first or the second electric signal is to be forwarded to the processing device.